

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 L-03 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07

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R 261140Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7440

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, LE

SUBJECT: ARAB BOYCOTT

REF: STATE 278485

1. UNFORTUNATLEY LOCAL SECURITY SITUATION MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR EMBASSY TO PROVIDE INFORMATION IN REFTEL IN PRECISELY THE MANNER DESIRED. IT IS HOPED HOWEVER THAT INFORMATION TRANSMITTED BELOW WILL SERVE TO DEFINE THE PARAMETERS OF THE PROBLEM INASFAR AS LEBANON IS CONCERNED.

2. UNDER COVER OF EMBASSY'S A-142 OF JUNE 5,1975 A COMPLETE REVIEW OF ALL PENDING MAJOR PROJECTS IN LEBANON WAS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT. SPONSORED EXCLUSIVELY BY EITHER GOVERNMENTAL OR QUASI-GOVERMENT AGENCIES, THESE MAJOR PROJECTS, IT WILL BE NOTED, HAVE A VALUE OF SEVERAL HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS.

3. ON THE QUESTION OF TENDERS, IT SHOULD BE RECALLED THAT LEBANON ADMINISTERS BOYCOTT LAW ON A LOW PROFILE BASIS. THUS, IT IS NOT NORMALLY LOCAL PRACTICE TO MAKE MENTION OF THE BOYCOTT REGULATIONS EXPLICITLY ON ORIGINAL TENDER DOCUMENTATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, ANY CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN, LETTERS OF CREDIT, INSURANCE POLICIES, ETC. THAT WOULD BE INVOLVED IN CONNECTION

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WITH WINNING A CONTRACT, WOULD BY LAW HAVE TO

CONTAIN THE BOYCOTT LANGUAGE REFERRED TO IN BEIRUT'S
14468.

4. IT IS PERHAPS RELEVANT TO RECALL THAT LEBANESE
IMPORTS FROM THE UNITED STATES AMOUNTED TO 284 MILLION
DOLLARS IN 1974, AS AGAINST A MERE 29 MILLION DOLLARS
OF EXPORTS. HERE AGAIN, WITH RESPECT TO IMPORTS FROM
THE UNITED STATES, THE STANDARD ARAB BOYCOTT LANGUAGE
WITH RESPECT TO BILLS OF LADING, LETTERS OF CREDIT
AND INSURANCE WAS REQUIRED BY LAW.

5. LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FUTURE, IF THE SECURITY SITUATION
IN LEBANON IS FINALLY STABILIZED AN ENORMOUS TASK
OF ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION WILL REQUIRED, AND IT
MAY BE ASSUMED THAT COUNTRY WILL BE GRANTED SUBSTANTIAL
CREDIT FROM ARAB COUNTRY SOURCES. THAT SUCH
CREDIT WOULD BE UTILIZED IN ACCORDANCE WITH BOYCOTT
LEGISLATION MAY OF COURSE BE FULLY ASSUMED. INDEED
THE COUNTRY MIGHT WELL BE PRESSURED (PROBABLY NOT SUCCESSULY)
INTO ADHERING TO A MORE EMOTIONALLY BASED
TYPE OF BOYCOTT POLICY THAT HAS BEEN THE CASE IN THE PAST.
GODLEY

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